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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

August 9, 2007

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The Honorable. Michael O. Johanns Secretary of Agriculture Department of Agriculture 213 Whiten Building Washington DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you on behalf of Fauquier, Loudoun, and Warren Counties which are located in my Congressional District and to request that the Department of Agriculture declare these counties as drought disaster areas. Governor Tim Kaine has sent a request from the Commonwealth for drought designation.

The abnormally low levels of rainfall and extreme temperatures have harmed agricultural and livestock production in this area. Loudoun County's agricultural production for 2006 was estimated to be \$55 million dollars, and the County estimates that the total crop and livestock losses will be almost \$24.5 million dollars. Warren County estimates losses in agricultural crops may exceed 60 percent.

For these reasons I ask that you declare Fauquier, Loudoun, and Warren Counties a drought disaster area, thereby making available all USDA Emergency Assistance programs to farmers in these counties.

